

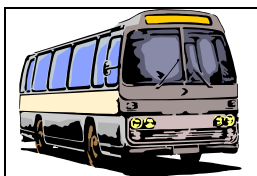
EAGLES OF REELFOOT LAKE

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Flying alone or in pairs, they soar on magnificent wings south from the Great Lakes and isolated regions of Canada to spend the winter in Northwest Tennessee. With wingspans of 6 to 8 feet, and weighing up to 16 pounds, the American Bald Eagle has made this annual winter pilgrimage to Reelfoot Lake for generations.

Bald Eagles, the symbol of our great country, are still in danger of extinction. Most Americans have never had the opportunity to observe these magnificent birds in the wild. Many have never observed the awe-inspiring beauty and power of this Bird of Freedom.



The Reelfoot Lake State Park Staff would like to provide the opportunity to see our national symbol in it's natural habitat to everyone who wishes to do so. Reelfoot Lake has one of the largest wintering populations of Bald Eagles outside of Alaska, and the return of the eagles has become a major event. The state park has established extensive guide and information programs for winter visitors to Reelfoot Lake. The Eagle Tours begin January 5th and continue through February 24th. The tour is a two-hour bus trip around Reelfoot Lake to observe the Bald Eagles and waterfowl. Tours are offered seven days a week. Buses leave the Visitor Center at 10:00 AM everyday & also 1:30 on weekends. Reservations are required. There is a \$5 charge for the tour. Tour guides equipped with binoculars, telescopes and most important, extensive knowledge of the eagles, rarely have difficulty locating the birds. In addition to providing information about the eagles, the guides also provide information about Reelfoot Lake and other waterfowl. The familiar image of the eagle is that of the mature bird with the stately "bald" crown of white feathers. Almost everyone will recognize this bird as a Bald Eagle. However, the young birds, less than five years of age, are completely brown and are often mistaken for large hawks. Several are killed each year because of mistaken identity. Eagles, Hawks, and Owls are all protected species and it is illegal to kill any of them.

Other birds, along with the eagles, can be observed at Reelfoot Lake. Over 100,000 ducks, 200,000 Geese, and an endless variety of birds can be found in this natural area. Over the entire year, approximately 254 kinds of birds will visit Reelfoot. It is truly a bird watchers paradise.



Besides the tours to observe eagles, many other programs are offered throughout the winter. Every weekend in January and February, special programs will be provided. Each Saturday night a guest speaker will be provide a program on a selected topic. Topics include eagles, Reelfoot Lake, nature photography, raptor rehabilitation and a variety of other subjects. Programs are offered each Saturday and Sunday afternoon in the Visitor Center/Assembly Hall.

